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PROGRAM ▼
GUIDE

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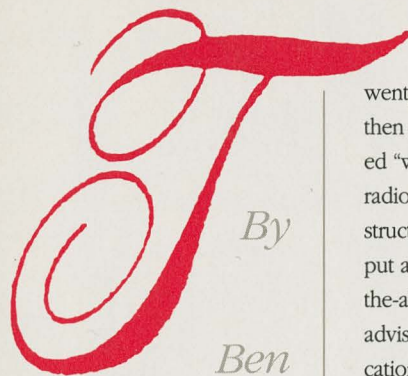
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25 YEARS OF GREAT RADIO
WGLT'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

FEBRUARY

19
91

T W E N T Y F I V E Y E A R S



By

Ben

Paxton,

Emeritus

General

Manager



wenty-five years ago, WGLT, then a 3-year-old campus limited "wired wireless" student radio station, received a construction permit from the FCC to put a 10-watt FM transmitter on-the-air. Dr. Ralph Smith, faculty advisor, had prepared the application for the license, and I was hired in the fall of 1965 to be faculty advisor for the FM station. On February 6th, 1966, that low-powered FM station went on-the-air.

Ten-watts — actually 19.3 watts of "effective radiated power" — allowed students to provide most of Bloomington-Normal with a variety of programming. Classical, jazz, folk, contemporary music, informative "talk" programs involving ISU faculty; phone-in programs; news and public affairs including live broadcasts of the Normal city council meetings; and play-by-play sports coverage of ISU sports all were part of the programming provided by WGLT-FM.

Through the socially turbulent late 60's and into the '70's, WGLT gained the respect of B-N listeners and ISU administrators. Early in the '70's, station personnel were encouraged by the

University administration to seek Federal support through funds made available by a 1967 Act of Congress. In short, to qualify for those funds WGLT had to add professional staff, expand coverage (increase power), and be on-the-air at least 18 hours-per-day, year-round. In the summer of 1976, a 2500 watt transmitter was put on-the-air and, with a staff of full-time professionals and part-time student employees, WGLT-FM began to serve McLean County. By 1978 WGLT was a fully qualified recipient of annual Federal grants and a full member of National Public Radio.

Weathering a series of State budget crises and staff cuts, by 1990 the station had received another construction permit from the FCC — sort of a 25th birthday present — to increase power again to 25,000 watts so that we can provide public radio programming to a significant portion of Central Illinois.

Well, that's a very abbreviated thumbnail sketch of the history of the station. In retirement now, I've been helping to locate station alumni. Since Bruce Bergethon asked me to reminisce about the past 25 years for this program guide, my thoughts

have been very people-oriented. We've heard from about 20% of those whose names I have unearthed as of December, 1990.

Jon Olson, the first student station manager (1962) is now a technical director with NBC Network News in Burbank while Rick and Sherry (Sikkema) Beckhart, manager and chief announcer respectively in 1965-66, are both Commanders in the Navy. Don and Lorna (Bane) White are another couple representing both professional staff and student staff. Both are currently with NPR in Washington, DC. We've heard from Jim Durham (1965-66) who is play-by-play announcer for the Chicago Bulls and from Bob Sparr, WGLT sportscaster in 1967-69, who is director of sales for WGN Radio and the Tribune Radio Networks. Another sportscaster is Brian Teter (1981-85), now Assistant Sports Information Director at Indiana University.

Joe Davis, better known in Philadelphia as premier drive-time personality and disc jockey on WUSL (Power 99FM), was a jazz announcer at WGLT from 1979 through 1981. And, of course, WJBC's own Ken Behrens was a WGLT announc-

er from 1966 through 1970.

Peter Dominowski, a student who went on to earn a Master's degree from Kent State, came back to WGLT as Music Director. Peter is now a consultant in public radio audience research and Program Director at WFMT, Chicago. Carrie Swearingen, an executive in Affiliate Relations for the Fox Broadcasting Company, Chicago, was a member of the WGLT staff in the mid '80's.

So — I've stuck my neck out and named some names. Obviously, I've also failed to mention the names of many others who have been part of my personal reminiscing these past few months. Let me assure all of them — all WGLT staff, listeners and friends — that my memories are not just of studios and transmitters, but of events, programs, difficulties, and achievements that have all occurred because around 700 great people have participated as members of the staff of the station and hundreds more have contributed as listeners and supporters of WGLT.

Thanks to all of you for 25 years of ups/downs, excitement/pleasure — but most of all, many wonderful friendships. ◀

A N D T H E N E X T Y E A R

W

By

Bruce

Bergethon,

General

Manager

WGLT
Jan 89

When you read the article by Ben Paxton in this month's guide, you'll see that WGLT has a distinguished history as it enters its second quarter century. As Ben's successor, it's been my pleasure to preside over not only this legacy, but to help build its future into the next decade of service to you.

Radio stations are like most businesses in that their success depends in equal part on personnel and material resources. You're reading this article, most likely, because you are one of the hundreds of people who have augmented our material resources through your contribution to the Friends of WGLT. One of the activities we are planning for 1991 is a membership meeting to which all the Friends will be invited. It will be another way for us to say thank you for your support, and your

opportunity to ask questions and meet the staff of your public radio station. Watch your mail for notice of this event, probably sometime in early spring.

As I write, the staff is just "breaking in" another major addition to our personnel resources. On January 7, Mark St. Clair assumed his duties as WGLT's new Program Director and Assistant Manager. Over the next several months, many of you will come to know Mark both on-air and in person, and I know you will be as pleased to meet him as we are to have him on staff. He comes to us with a diverse and fascinating radio background, ranging from a three year stint in Monrovia, Liberia, to the program directorships of stations in Indiana and South Carolina. His most recent employment was with Peach State Radio, the public radio network

in Georgia. While I suspect he'll miss the Georgia winters, I know that he's excited to have the opportunity to further improve WGLT's program service to you.

There is a strong likelihood that we'll be continuing our changes and refinements in that service in the year ahead. Many of you have told us that you appreciate the new programs and extended hours of old programs that we've added during the last six months. We also continue to look at major trends in our programming, such as the growing audience support for our jazz and blues services. Mark, especially, will be interested in your input into this ongoing refinement process, but we're always happy to hear from you, either with a letter, phone call, or by filling out the program survey card you receive after fulfilling your membership pledge.

One major process underway at WGLT this year will no doubt also have an impact on our programming decisions. As you have probably heard, WGLT received approval from the Federal Communications Commission last fall to increase our power from 2300 to 25,000 watts. (This approval, by the way, is one of Ben Paxton's last

great contributions to the station, as he marshalled the application and frequency search that made it possible.) The power increase will fulfill a longstanding dream at WGLT: to become a unique public radio service serving Central Illinois from the Twin Cities.

Our current timetable calls for bidding of the transmitter upgrade project during the early part of the spring, with construction and installation to take place over the summer. The target date for operation at the increased level of power is sometime in the early fall. There are still many potential obstacles to overcome, but the rewards will be worth the wait. You'll be able to hear us in Peoria, Champaign/Urbana, and pretty far up Routes 51 and 55. We also anticipate some growth in our financial contributions, and that should make for improved programming, wherever you're listening.

In short, 1991 promises to be a busy and exciting year for WGLT. Many things will be changing and improving, but one thing will never change — that's the commitment of the staff to provide the highest quality service we can in a dynamic environment. We thank you for your part in the last 25 years. Now, on to the future! ◀

"AND THE WINNER IS..."

Did you know you're reading an award-winning publication? You are! The WGLT Program Guide, and its editor Laura K. Kennedy, recently received an Award of Achievement in the 1990 Master Communicator Competition - Spotlight on Excellence.

Master Communicator Competition is a regional contest sponsored

annually by central Illinois chapters of Women in Communications, Inc., International Association of Business Communicators, and Public Relations Society of America.

Kudos also go to Osborn & DeLong graphic designer Al Fleener who was presented an Award of

Excellence in the same competition for the design of the WGLT Program Guide.

Needless to say, we're very proud of the guide and hope you continue to enjoy it, too!

Kathy Carter,
Development Director

THANKS TO OUR UNDERWRITERS



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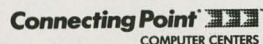
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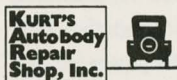
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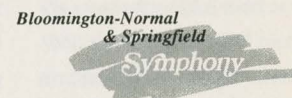
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

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WEEK AT A GLANCE

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
5	 MORNING EDITION					 Weekend News	 Jazz & New Age
8							
9	 CLASSICAL					 Jazz & New Age	
12N							
						 Rhythm & Blues	 Big Band Jazz
4	 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, NEWS, INTERVIEWS AND COMEDY						
7							
	 CONTEMPORARY JAZZ & NEW AGE				 Rhythm & Blues	 World Beat	 Thistle & Shamrock
10							
1						 Jazz & New Age	

TALK

All Things Considered
Weekdays 4-5:30 p.m.
Weekends 4-5 p.m.

Car Talk
Sun. 5-6 p.m.

Crossroads
Sat. 6:30-7 a.m.

Fresh Air
Weekdays 6-7 p.m.

Morning Edition
Weekdays 5-9 a.m.

National Press Club
Sat. 5-6 a.m.

Parent's Journal
Sun. 6-7 p.m.

State House Journal
Sat. 6-6:30 a.m.

Weekend Edition
Sat. 7-9 a.m.

WGLT Local News
Weekdays 5:30-6 p.m.

Whad Ya Know?
Sat. 5-7 p.m.

BLUES

Bluesstage
Fri. 7-8 p.m.
Sat. Midnight-1 a.m.

Boon at Noon
Sat. Noon-4 p.m.

Portraits in Blue
Fri. Midnight-1 a.m.

Rhythm and Blues
Fri. 8 p.m.-Midnight
with Frank Black
Sat. 9 p.m.-Midnight
with Steve Fast

JAZZ & NEW AGE

Boon at Noon
Sun. Noon-4 p.m.

Breakfast in the Field
Sat. & Sun. 9 a.m.-Noon

Hearts of Space
Sun. 5-7 a.m.
& 10-Midnight

Echoes
Sun. 7-9 a.m.

Nightmusic
Sun.-Thurs. 7 p.m.-Midnight

CLASSICAL

Chamberworks
Weekdays 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

WORLD & NEW MUSIC

Afropop
Sat. 7-8 p.m.

Brazilian Hour
Sat. 8-9 p.m.

New Sounds
Sun.-Thurs.
Midnight-1 a.m.

Thistle and Shamrock
Sun. 7-8 p.m.

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